

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 13-01

Date: 01-13

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 70, 1999 ed.

Section(s): 517.10, 517-18

Comments: Does not apply to critical Care areas.

Applies to nursing homes and limited care facilities only.

This interpretation follows NFPA Formal Interpretation 99-1.

Question: Are hospital grade electrical receptacles and redundant grounding required for general care patient bed locations in nursing homes?

Response: No, except as specified below.

Hospital grade electrical receptacles and redundant grounding are not required for patient bed locations used exclusively as patient sleeping rooms.

An exclusive patient sleeping room does not include patient care activities involving the use of electrical or electronic life support systems, invasive procedures or where patients are electrically connected to line-operated, electromedical devices.

An invasive procedure includes treatment involving puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of an instrument or injection of foreign material into the body. This may include hypodermic injection and intravenous infusion through an IV pump.

The facility administrator must determine if a patient sleeping room is used exclusively for sleeping or if it is used for care that includes life support or invasive procedures. A facility may have a mix of such rooms, but any room designated by the administrator to include life support or invasive procedures must have hospital grade electrical receptacles and redundant grounding.

To ensure proper enforcement, the administrator, or the administrators representative must inform the authority having jurisdiction which patient room(s) (if any) are to be used exclusively as sleeping rooms.

It is not intended that there be a total, immediate replacement of existing non-hospital grade receptacles. It is intended, however, non-hospital grade receptacles be replaced with hospital grade receptacles upon modification of use, renovation, or as existing receptacles need replacement.

Signature:

Date: 01-28-13

Title:

Jim Heine, Acting State Fire Marshal